

5th February 1963]

[Note—An asterisk(*) at the Commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE HEAVY DAMAGES TO PADDY FIELDS IN THE ANAMALAI FIRKA.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the hon. Member, Sri K. Ponniah, who has given notice under Rule 41 will call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Agriculture.

SRI K. PONNIAH: Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the gross and heavy damages caused by rats to paddy fields in Anamalai firka, Pollachi taluk, Coimbatore district and the remedial measures taken by the Government.

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rat damage in Anamalai Paddy Ayacut Area is unusually severe this year which was quite unexpected. The total area under paddy in the ayacut area is about 6,500 acres.

The first report on the damage caused by rats was received in the office of the District Agricultural Officer, Pollachi, from the Agricultural Association, Anamalai, on 12—1—1963. The Association has addressed the Plant Protection Officer, Tiruchirappalli, with a copy to the District Agricultural Officer, Pollachi. The Block Development Officer, Anamalai, indented on the District Agricultural Officer, Pollachi, for Cynogas pumps for fumigation. Eight cynogas foot-pumps were accordingly supplied for use and the President of Anamalai Agricultural Association was also informed of the supply. But, none of the ryots came forward to use them and as a result, the foot-pumps had to be returned.

Baiting with zinc phosphide was taken up but the rats could not be effectively controlled. The Plant Protection Assistant, Pollachi toured the affected areas and explained to the ryots about the correct method of baiting with zinc phosphide. The Plant Protection Assistant, Pollachi, contacted Sri V. K. Palani-swamy Gounder, M.L.C., and other leading ryots and explained the correct method of baiting and the steps taken by the Department to combat the menace.

The District Agricultural Officer, Pollachi, also toured the affected areas and contacted ryots and discussed with them. While organising the village volunteer forces and addressing the Panchayat meeting at Anamalai and Then-chittoor, it was decided to utilise the services of the Village Voluntary Force to organise mass eradication of rats by Shramadhan work. This will be taken up shortly. A majority of the ryots have also resorted to catch the rats by professionals to a good degree.

The Special District Agricultural Officer, Parambikulam-Aliyar Project, Pollachi, also toured the villages and explained to the ryots to dig up the burrows and to resort to mechanical control in view of high bunds and remification of the burrows which are deep. The damage due to rats is expected to be about 10 to 15 per cent.

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Expedition arrangements are being made by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, to make locally large number of Thanjavur bow-traps for large scale distribution to ryots and every effort is being made to reduce the damage, by mobilising the volunteer force in the villages and organising a campaign for eradication of the rats.

SRI J. MATHA GOWDER : Sir, on a point of information

MR. SPEAKER : No question can be asked at this stage.

SRI J. MATHA GOWDER : On a point of information from the Chair.

நானும், நண்பர் திரு. கார்ச்சா கவுடர் அவர்களும் விதி 41-ன் கீழ் விவரத்தை ரெவினியூ அமைச்சர் அவர்களிடத்திலிருந்து கேட்டோம். சட்ட மன்றத்திற்கு இன்று கடைசி நாளாதலால் அது என்னவாயிற்று என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister may not be ready. It will be investigated.

III.—PRIVILEGE MATTER *re* THE ARREST OF A MEMBER.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received two letters from the hon. Member, Sri M. Kalayanasundaram, M.L.A., now detained in the Central Jail, Cuddalore. He has raised two points of privilege. I am bringing them to the notice of the House.

He has stated that the action of the Commissioner of Police in arresting him and detaining him under Section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code and of the Deputy Secretary, Public Department, for issuing an order under Rule 30 of the Defence of India Rules for detaining him in the Central Jail, Cuddalore, and that of the Superintendent, Central Jail, Cuddalore, in detaining him there amount to a breach of privilege.

The facts of the case are as follows :—

The hon. Member was arrested on 21st November, 1962, under section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code under orders issued by the Commissioner of Police and he was remanded to custody in the Central Jail, Madras. Again on 21st November, 1962, the member was served with an order under Rule 30 of the Defence of India Rules by the Deputy Secretary, Public Department, and he was transferred to Central Jail, Cuddalore, where he is still lodged.

The contention of the member is that the Madras Legislative Assembly passed a resolution on 29th October, 1962, regarding the Chinese Aggression and pledged its support to any measure that may be taken up to drive out the Chinese and that he is also a party to the resolution and has taken the pledge to support the Government and that in view of that to arrest him and detain him would amount to a breach of privilege.